



November 19, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Report Card Week!

On Monday, President Biden officially signed his \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal. The celebration from this victory was the beginning of a brief roller-coaster ride on priorities for the White House. Shortly after signing, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) weighed in on the \$1.75 trillion social spending Build Back Better plan and action causing hesitation by moderates in the Democratic caucus. The analysis was enough of a green light for House leadership to put the spending package up for a vote this morning – passing by a vote of 220 to 213. While this seems like another large victory for the President's agenda heading into the Thanksgiving break, the next obstacle the social policy package faces is the Senate where it will likely face further scrutiny and be met with continued debating from both sides of the aisle. The full CBO Report on [H.R. 5376](#), the *Build Back Better Act*, can be found on the [CBO website](#).

Unfortunately, the ongoing debate on these packages and still incomplete annual authorization for the Department of Defense is detracting from negotiations on the FY22 appropriations bills. With the current Continuing Resolution expiring December 3, appropriators are frantically working on the path forward. All signs currently point to another short-term extension to just before Christmas, but some negotiators are also pushing for a longer-term solution to early 2022.

Hearings the Week of November 22, 2021

No emergency management hearings this week.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA Formalizes Some Programmatic Changes

This week through the Federal Register, FEMA gave notice of two adjustments to existing programs including the threshold for Small Projects and the Countywide per capita indicator. FEMA will adjust the countywide per capita impact indicator under the Public Assistance program. The increase in the countywide per capita impact indicator moved to \$4.10 for all disasters declared on or after October 1, 2021.

FEMA will also annually adjust the minimum Project Worksheet amount under the Public Assistance program and gives notice of an increase to \$3,500 for the minimum amount that will be approved for any Project Worksheet under the Public Assistance program for all major disasters and emergencies declared on or after October 1, 2021. FEMA based these adjustments on an increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers of 5.3 percent for the 12-month period that ended in August 2021.

Finally, the Stafford Act provides that FEMA will annually adjust the threshold for assistance to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor. The notice was that \$139,800 is the new threshold for any Small Project subgrant made to state, tribal, and local governments or to the owner or operator of an eligible private nonprofit facility for all major disasters or emergencies declared on or after October 1, 2021.

CHDS Application Period Begins

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) is currently accepting applications for their programs on Enhanced Radiological Preparedness. CHDS has two programs available, the in-residence Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Executive Education Program and the in-residence Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Early Career Education Program. Both of these programs are conducted on the campus of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

The Executive program is designed for local, state, federal, tribal, territorial and industry leaders responsible for off-site, fixed nuclear facility emergency preparedness, response and recovery. It is designed to accommodate the busy schedules of participating executives and does not require the workload of traditional graduate-level education programs. The Early Career Program provides an educational forum and innovation lab for participants to explore emerging trends in the world around us in technology, society, and terrorism.

If you are interested in more information, or would like to submit an application, please go to the CHDS website [here](#).

GAO Report Recommends Additional Steps to Protect Schools from Cyber Attacks

Last week, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report recommending the need to take additional steps to protect our K-12 schools as we see more and more modifying to hybrid and online models due to the on-going pandemic. In its findings, GAO reported that the Department of Education has not updated its 2010 plan and has not determined whether sector-specific guidance is needed for K-12 schools to help protect against cyber threats. Education officials stated that the department has not updated the sector plan and not determined the need for sector-specific guidance because CISA has not directed it to do so. GAO made two recommendations in the report: the Department of Education to initiate a meeting with CISA to determine how to update its sector specific plan and to determine whether sector-specific guidance is needed. The Department of Education concurred with GAO's two recommendations and described actions that it would take to address them.

For further information, you can find the full report [here](#) and the highlights of the report [here](#).

FEMA Releases Updated Community Resilience Exercise Guide

Recently, FEMA updated their Long-Term Community Resilience Exercise Guide, aimed at helping assist communities combat the increase in disasters. The impacts of climate change are being felt today in communities across the country and increasingly test our resilience. The Long-Term Community Resilience Exercise Resource Guide is a "one-stop-shop" for any jurisdiction or organization looking to conduct a climate-focused exercise. This guide equips users with:

- A dictionary with common terms to ensure a shared understanding of climate-related terminology and principles before an exercise.
- Tools and templates for planning and conducting climate-focused exercises.
- Resources including funding opportunities, risk assessments and training programs.

Please e-mail NEP@fema.dhs.gov with questions or to share how you are using the [Long-Term Community Resilience Exercise Resource Guide](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

HSToday: [National Association of Counties Launches New Database of COVID-19 Recovery Plans](#)
The Advocate (opinion): [FEMA Should Pause Risk Rating, Assure Flood Program is Fair, Affordable](#)
Council on Strategic Risk: [Critical Steps In Preventing Future Pandemics](#)

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